



State of Connecticut

SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
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February 1, 2013

Senator Steve Cassano
Representative Jason Rojas
Planning & Development Committee
Room 2100, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairman Cassano and Chairman Rojas:

Attached please find the testimony of Ed McAnaney, First Selectman from the Town of Suffield. First Selectman McAnaney was regrettably unable to attend today to speak on municipal mandates, but would like his views to be reflected in the ongoing conversation.

Thank you for your consideration.

John A. Kissel
State Senator-7th District

JAK/mkm

The Suffield Board of Selectmen propose the following changes to the statutes:

1. Elimination of the minimum budget requirement (CGS §10-162i(d) for those districts that are not failing. This section of statute sets an artificial floor to the education budget which “squeezes” the rest of the town’s budget. It also artificially supports wage and benefit demands by employees of the education department and provides artificial job security.
2. Realignment of the criteria for deciding arbitration for the teachers’ labor disputes specifically CGS §10-153f(c)(4) so that the issue of a town’s ability to pay is removed (if the first criterion is “ability to pay”, the Town can always just raise taxes to satisfy employees’ demands) and the other enumerated criteria are reordered as follows:
 - (C) becomes (A)
 - (D) is modified to include the private sector as a similar group
 - (D) becomes (C)
 - (E) is modified to include the salaries, etc of those in the private sector first and then the public sector in that consideration.
 - (E) becomes (B)
3. Realignment of the criteria similar to those above in CGS §7-473c(d)(9) in a way similar to those in 2 above.
3. Give the Boards of Finance a “line item” veto on the education budget. This will allow the town to have, for example, more control over spending on non-education items such as facilities and maintenance.

Edward G. McAnaney
First Selectman